

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #10  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM  
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

**From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)**

**Date: 8/17/2015**

**Reporting Period: 8/16/2015 0700 – 8/16/2015 1900**

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Description of Threat**

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

## 1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

## 2. Current Activities

Headquarters has established a joint website at [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine).

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: (844) 607-9700.

### 2.1 Operations Section

EPA evaluated NMED Drinking Water Bureau's criteria as discussed in their "DWB recommendations for removing advisory to refrain from drawing river water" document. EPA had a follow up discussion with NMED on both short and long term criteria as proposed in their submission. EPA requested that NMED provide clarification on some elements of their recommendations. EPA will continue collaboration with NMED.

#### Data Posting to the Web

The August 7-11, 2015, surface water sampling data is now available on the Gold King Mine website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-13-2015>.

In addition to the data listed above, Area Command and HQ were sent the following data for posting:

- Surface Water sample data from Public Water Supply Intakes for August 12, 2015
- Sediment sample data from Public Water Supply Intakes for August 10, 12, and 13, 2015
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment sample data from August 13, 2015

#### Community Meeting

A community meeting will be held in Farmington the evening of August 17, 2015 at 6 pm MDT. The meeting will be attended by the Superfund Division Director, the R6 RIC and a toxicologist from ERT, in addition to the R6 Incident Commander.

#### Toll-Free Number Activity

	8/16/15	Total to Date
Total Calls Received	5	127
Calls Concerning R6	0	50
Calls Returned by R6	0	50

The table below is a breakdown of the calls pertaining to Region 6. Of the Well Water Test Scheduling calls, 7 of the citizens expressed gratitude for EPA's efforts in sampling.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>8/16/2015</b>	<b>Overall Totals</b>
Well Water Test Scheduling		15
Water Concerns		7
Health Concerns		4
Livestock/Irrigation		3
Tourism/Media		1
Volunteer Offers		3
General Concerns		12
Contractor/Vendor Support		5
Daily Totals:	0	50

#### Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

At this time the private drinking water well sampling effort is completed.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Private Wells Sampled</b>
8/10	10
8/11	31
8/12	23
8/13	0 New Locations (38 re-samples)
8/14	35
8/15	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114 Distinct Wells</b>

#### Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Morningstar and Farmington are completing the connection between their water systems, current plans are to complete this task the morning of August 17, 2015. The water system operators will complete the connections and will operate the system once functional. Although the public water intakes have been opened it will take at least 48 hours for the system to completely come back on line.

#### Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

	<b>8/16/2015</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
River Surface Water Samples	9	87
River Sediment Samples	9	64

### Irrigation Ditch Sampling

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The irrigation ditch sampling effort has been completed.

	<b>8/16/2015</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
Non-River Sediment/Soil Samples	0	59

### Agriculture and Livestock Water

Several agriculture locations rescinded their requests for water after New Mexico lifted the advisory restricting the use of private water wells. It is also anticipated that as the irrigation ditch water levels stabilize, water hauling deliveries will decrease.

	<b>8/16/15</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
Farmers Served	3	25
Gallons to Farmers	47,040	1,021,230
Livestock Farms Served	3	25
Gallons to Livestock Farms	6,804	29,916*

\*Total was miscalculated on 8/16/15 Situation Report

## **2.2 Finance Section**

### **Daily Cost Estimates Report**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>EPA Expended Payroll</b>	<b>EPA Expended Travel</b>	<b>EPA Other Costs</b>	<b>Cumulative Contract Costs</b>	<b>TOTAL Expended</b>	<b>Estimated Daily Burn Rate</b>
<b>EPA</b>	<b>\$168,570.00</b>	<b>\$42,250.00</b>	<b>\$11,854.56</b>	<b>\$989,567.73</b>	<b>\$1,212,242.29</b>	<b>\$131,450.00</b>

## **3. Participating Entities in Region 6**

US EPA

USFWS

NMED

ATSDR

NM Department of Health

NM Office of the State Engineer

NM Department of Game and Fish

County of San Juan – New Mexico

#### 4. Personnel

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	13
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	5
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 DD/RIC – Farmington, NM	2
ERT Toxicologist – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 CIC – Farmington, NM	2
Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	3
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	8
Region 6 Contractors in Field	25